

Kenneth S. Kump

S/N: 10/711,762

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action mailed June 10, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hoheisel (US 2003/0031296A1). The Examiner next rejected claims 4, 6, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoheisel.

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 21-32 are allowed.

In the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, and 8 as being anticipated by Hoheisel, the Examiner concluded that "since a degree of bending from the flexible detector can be occurred by gravitational load, the bending sensor (disclosed by the reference) is considered as a sensor for detecting gravitational load..." Office Action, June 10, 2005, p. 2 (parentheses added). Hoheisel teaches one or more measurement sensors that measure "the degree of bending of the X-ray detector (5)." Para. [0019]. In this regard, the "measurement system 10 forms a correction dataset from the output of the sensor or sensors 9 as well as from the known geometry, i.e. the relative position of the X-ray tube 1 and X-ray detector 5." Para. [0020]. Further, "this correction dataset is supplied to a correction system 7 that corrects the image data dependent on the identified geometrical distortions." *Id.* In short, the reference discloses a flexible x-ray detector and a system for determining the degree of flex so that appropriate data correction can be carried out to account for the degree of flex. There is nothing in the reference that explicitly or implicitly teaches or suggests that the "bending" sensor detects gravitational loads placed on an x-ray detector.

One skilled in the art will readily appreciate that the "gravitational load" or G-force placed on an object is the force imposed by the physical attraction of two objects of mass, e.g. an x-ray detector and the Earth. Therefore, for the "bending sensor" disclosed by the reference to anticipate the "electronic sensor" called for in claim 1, the "bending sensor" must be capable of detecting the force imposed on the x-ray detector by the attraction of the x-ray detector to the Earth. It is clear that the sensor of the reference is not disclosed as having that capability. Moreover, while flexing of the x-ray detector may be by an external object placed on the x-ray detector, the sensor is still measuring the degree of flex. It is not detecting the physical attraction between the x-ray detector

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and the Earth. At best, via the flexing of the x-ray detector, the "bending sensor" would be detecting a physical attraction of the external object and the Earth. As such, the "bending sensor", at best, detects a gravitational load placed on the external object.

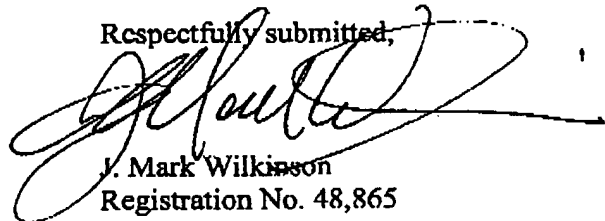
Claim 1, however, calls for an x-ray imaging system having, in part, "at least one electronic sensor configured to detect gravitational loads placed on the x-ray detector." As the reference or the other art of record fails to teach such a sensor together with the other limitations of the claim, it is believed that claim 1 is condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests allowance of claims 1-3, 5, and 8.

With regards to the rejection of claims 4, 6, and 17, Applicant disagrees with the Examiner with respect to the art as applied, but in light of each of the aforementioned claims depending from what is believed an otherwise allowable claim, Applicant does not believe additional remarks are necessary and requests allowance of claims 4, 6, and 17 at least pursuant to the chain of dependency.

Therefore, in light of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-32.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,



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